

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims have been rejected based on double patenting over Pending Application Serial No. 10/054,479. This rejection is premature since the cited application is not a patent.

The claims have been rejected under §102(e) as being anticipated by or obvious over Maeda (US Pub. No. 2002/0030630). According to §102(e), a reference must have a filing date earlier than the filing date of the subject application. The subject application was filed March 13, 2001. Maeda was filed September 6, 2001, which is later than the filing date of the subject application. Therefore, the rejection is improper.

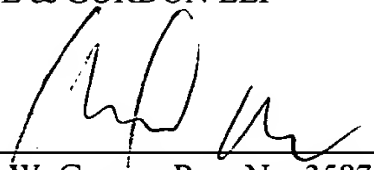
Since both rejections are improper, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 33422.

Respectfully submitted,

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